



Volume 11

March 14, 2025

Number 11

SERVING AS ELDERS

John Cooper
Keith Hammonds
Tim Simpson
Jere Spurlin
Dan Whitson

SERVING AS DEACONS

Sam Allison, Allan Dillard, Richard Dobbs, Jeff Etheredge, Andy Harrison, Tom Inman, Jimmy Jeffreys, Mike Pirtle and Randall Terry

SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

J.C. Enlow-Ukraine, Mexico, West Africa
Wayne Barrier-Borneo
Rod Kyle-Solomon Islands
Chris Herd-New Zealand
Steve Worley-Nigeria

PULPIT MINISTER

Alan Watkins

YOUTH MINISTER

Keith Jett

OUTREACH MINISTER

Robert Guinn

SECRETARIES

Angie Newell Sandra Harrison

"THE BRIDGE" DIRECTOR

Becky Ellis

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"The Shepherds' Corner"

03/07/2025

Five of the greatest challenges facing the church

Steve Higginbotham

While I do not consider myself an expert in anything, I do have a few years of preaching experience under my belt. Over the past 30 years of working with the church, preaching across the country, talking with elders, preachers, and members, I've identified a few challenges the church needs to work at overcoming. What do you think about my list? Do you agree?

Preaching for "the choir" but not to "the choir."

The church doesn't need professional pulpiteers hired to entertain and please the masses. What the church needs are men of conviction who will preach the truth in love, "in season and out of season." We need men who are not content to simply preach "for" the church, but to preach "to" the church, challenging her ethics, calling for repentance, upholding God's doctrine, and leading the church out of mediocrity.

Youth ministry that caters to the strong and beautiful.

It's easy to fall into the trap of catering to the advantaged. The first century church stumbled here too. James had to remind the church that their desire to cater to the rich didn't make sense, since it was the rich who were oppressing the church. They were blinded by status. The rich, the beautiful, the strong and athletic... these people are "easy to love." But often, they are the very ones who feel self-sufficient because of their advantages in life. We need youth ministry that doesn't ignore the poor, unpopular, and discarded and equally reaches out to them as well as the strong and beautiful.

Shepherds who shepherd the flock but not "fence jumpers."

It's easy to oversee those who are compliant, but shepherds must also be willing to go, search for, find, and safely return the sheep who have left the flock and jumped the fence. Orders can easily "busy themselves" with the compliant, but if no time is left to go after the "fence jumpers," then an eldership's time management needs to be reconsidered.

Deacons who work at not working.

Through the years, I've heard from elders who were frustrated because they couldn't get the deacons to work. Consequently, elders find themselves doing work the deacons should be doing, and the work that elders would be doing goes undone. Becoming a deacon is not a "title," it's not an "election to an office." It is an agreement to become a special servant of the church. When a deacon stops serving in that special capacity, he stops being a deacon, for it's a work, not a title.

Members who maintain the premises but won't maintain their promises.

The church is stymied when the membership thinks their job is to maintain the premises. When the bulk of the congregation's work revolves around the building, grounds, fellowship meals, activities, and weekly worship, the church will suffer. The church needs to remember to maintain the promise they made to make Jesus Lord of their lives. That promise demands a level of commitment that has to be taken outside of the premises and into the world.

While these aren't the only challenges the church faces, they do identify five that we can begin working on today. I long for the day when the greatest challenge the church faces comes from the devil and not ourselves.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

COME AND JOIN US!

WEEK OF 03/16/2025 THROUGH 03/19/2025

03/16/2025 SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES 9AM

Class: "The Anvil Rings"

Teacher: John Cooper

Where: Auditorium

Class: "Studies in Christian Living"

Teacher: Alan Watkins

Where: Fellowship Hall

Class: "Peacemakers, Christianity and Conflict"

Teacher: Robert Guinn

Where: Classroom 2

Teenage Bible Class (6 - 12 Grade)

Teacher: Keith Jett

Where: Teen Room

The Bridge - Nursery Thru 5TH Grade

SUNDAY WORSHIP

03/16/2025 10AM Worship Service - In the Auditorium

5:00PM Worship Service

OR WATCH LIVE STREAM ON:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/DecaturCoC/>

YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmt9ZXk_fXzu6pGI4H5UpQA

03/19/2025 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES 6:30 PM

Class: "Focus on Faith" - (Studies in Hebrews)

Where: Auditorium

Teacher - Bobby King

Class: "Christ in Prophecy"

Where: Fellowship Hall

Teacher - Alan Watkins

Class: "Making the Most of Life"

Where: Classroom 2

Teacher: Anthony Wilson

Ladies Bible Class

Where: Room 5/6

Teacher - Donna Lamp

Teenage Bible Class (6th - 12 Grade)

Where: Teen Room

Teacher - Keith Jett

The Bridge - NURSERY THRU 5TH GRADE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

March Privilege to Serve List

March 2025 Sunday 10AM Service Order

<u>Service</u>	<u>2-Mar</u>	<u>9-Mar</u>	<u>16-Mar</u>	<u>23-Mar</u>	<u>30-Mar</u>
Welcome	Jere Spurlin	Tim Simpson	John Cooper	Keith Hammonds	Alan Watkins
Opening Prayer	Mike Pirtle	Nathan Ellis	Andy Nash	Dennis Powers	Buddy Burchell
Song Leader	John Cooper	Robert Guinn	Jere Spurlin	Robert Guinn	John Cooper
Shepherds Prayer	Keith Hammonds	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson	John Cooper	Keith Hammonds
Lord's Supper	Keith Jett	Allan Dillard	Jeff Etheredge	Doyle Rochester	Bobby King
Scripture Reading	Andrew Macon	Dennis Powers	Joel Bishop	Randall Terry	Mike Pirtle
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Bobby King	Joey Gray	Steve Underwood	Sam Allison	Andy Nash

March 2025 Sunday 5PM Service Order

<u>Service</u>	<u>2-Mar</u>	<u>9-Mar</u>	<u>16-Mar</u>	<u>23-Mar</u>	<u>30-Mar</u>
Welcome	Robert Guinn	Alan Watkins	Keith Jett	Dan Whitson	Keith Jett
Opening Prayer	Randall Terry	Jimmy Jeffreys	Buddy Burchell	Daniel Underwood	Richard Dobbs
Song Leader	Steve Wilson	Dan Whitson	Nathan Ellis	Mark Henderson	Stanley Nelson
Scripture Reading	Andrew Macon	Philip Miller	Tom Inman	Steve Wilson	Andrew Macon
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Joey Gray	Steve Gober	Andrew Macon	Cory Wells	Jeff Etheredge

March 2025 Wednesday Night Service Order

<u>Service</u>	<u>5-Mar</u>	<u>12-Mar</u>	<u>19-Mar</u>	<u>26-Mar</u>
Song Leader	Robert Guinn	Alan Watkins	Andrew Macon	Stanley Nelson
Invitation	Keith Jett	Anthony Wilson	Robert Guinn	Alan Watkins
Announcements	Allan Dillard	Dan Whitson	Tim Simpson	Jere Spurlin
Closing Prayer	Allan Dillard	Dan Whitson	Tim Simpson	Jere Spurlin

Monthly Greeters

Sunday AM Bishop & Whitson

Sunday PM Cooper & Dobbs

Wednesday PM S. Nelson & Wells

March 2025 Nursery Attendants

Sunday AM	3/2/2025	3/9/2025	3/16/2025	3/23/2025	3/30/2025
Attendant	DeAndra Allison	Joan Pirtle	Heather Loyd	Cindy Terry	Suzanne Garrett
Attendant	Londyn Battle	Elizabeth Guinn	Harper Loyd	Tracy Powell	Sherrie Inman
Sunday PM					
Attendant	Kelly Wells	Jeanne Simpson	Debbie Wiggins	Derri Hardwick	Mary Dobbs
Attendant	Kathleen Burress	Carol Etheredge	Janice Watkins	Stephanie Bishop	Haley Pirtle

April 2025 Nursery Attendants

Sunday AM	4/6/2025	4/13/2025	4/20/2025	4/27/2025	
Attendant	Kelley Wells	Jeanne Simpson	Heather Loyd	Derri Hardwick	
Attendant	Kathleen Burress	Carol Etheredge	Harper Loyd	Stephanie Bishop	
Sunday PM					
Attendant	DeAndra Allison	Joan Pirtle	Cindy Terry	Debbie Wiggins	
Attendant	Londyn Battle	Elizabeth Guinn	Tracy Powell	Janice Watkins	

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

LESSON OUTLINE

(03/16/2025)

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Matt. 16:16-18

INTRO:

1. There is much confusion today because of the number of, and diversity of, religious groups.
2. How can we know which one is the true church? – Go to God's word.
3. There would only be one church if all obeyed God's word.
4. As we observe scriptures that identify the church of the New Testament, remember our responsibility to verify the things we hear. **Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1**
5. Do not learn what I think, believe, or feel, but what God says in his word.

I. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH.

- A. The church began in Jerusalem about A.D. 30 exactly as prophesied. **Dan. 2:44**
- B. Isaiah wrote the house of God would be established in Jerusalem, therefore, the church is known as the house of God. **Isa. 2:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:15**
- C. From **Acts 2** we learn that the church began in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when the gospel was preached for the first time and on that day, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, the church was established.
- D. It was established according to the Old Testament prophecies.

II. WHO ESTABLISHED THE CHURCH?

- A. Jesus Christ is the founder of the New Testament church. **Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19, 20**
- B. Christ is the son of God and the savior of the church. **Eph. 5:23**
- C. If we know the founder of the true church, we know the one and only true church.

CONC:

1. Please study the scriptures and do not be deceived by the doctrines of men because there are many.
2. There is only one true church. **John 8:32; John 17:17**

Remember In Our Daily Prayers

OUR SICK

Bonnie Elswick fell and skinned up her back. She is also scheduled to see the doctor on Monday about another health issue. Please keep her in your prayers.

Diane Russ (Update 03/12), the sister of Marilyn Whitson continues to receive cancer treatment. She had a PET scan on Monday and will see the doctor this coming week. Send cards to – 1442 Perkins Rd., Winder, GA 30680. Please keep her in your prayers.

Doyle Whitlow (Update 03/11) was released from rehab and is now at home. Send cards to – 7162 Danville Road, Hartselle, AL 35640. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our Sympathy to Debbie Wiggins in the passing of her mother, Jane Knouff. Visitation will be Sunday, March 16 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM, followed by the Funeral Service at 2:00 PM. All will be at Shelton Funeral Home. Send cards to – 3701 Fall Bluff Drive S.W., Decatur, AL 35603. Please keep Debbie and her family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Our Sympathy to Bonnie Elswick in the passing of her aunt, Ann Skidmore. Visitation will be Sunday, March 16 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM followed by the Funeral Service at 2:30 PM. All will be at the Tuscumbia Church of Christ building (102 E.

4th St., Tuscumbia). Send cards to - Bonnie Elswick, 21 Derby Drive, Decatur, AL 35603. Please keep Bonnie and her family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Our Sympathy to Keith Jett in the passing of his aunt, Rosie Jett. The funeral service was yesterday in Watkinsville, GA. Send cards to – Keith Jett, 567 County Road 331, Moulton, AL 35650. Please keep Keith and his family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Our Sympathy to Steve Wilson in the passing of his uncle, Phillip Coats. The funeral was Wednesday in Booneville, MS. Send cards to – Steve Wilson, 6882 Danville Road, Hartselle, AL 35640. Please keep Steve and his family in your prayers during this time of loss.

►► ANNOUNCEMENT ◀◀

The sick list was purged on March 8th. All names were removed. If you have a family member or friend you want to continue on the list, please submit their name, their address and phone number, their relationship to you, their condition that put them on the sick list and the date, IN WRITING, to the office. This information will be kept on file for further reference.

OUR MEMBERS

FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF

OUR MEMBERS

IN MILITARY SERVICE

NURSING HOME ADDRESSES

1. **Brookdale Cedar Springs**
2505 Spring Ave. S.W.
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 552-3800
2. **Country Cottage**
(256) 301-1800
2515 Old Moulton Road
Decatur, AL 35603
3. **Decatur Health & Rehab USA**
2326 Morgan Avenue
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 340-5765
4. **Falkville Nursing Home**
10 West 3rd Street
Falkville, AL 35622
(256) 784-5291
5. **NHC Healthcare**
(256) 974-1146
300 Hospital Street
Moulton, AL 35650
6. **River City Care & Rehab**
(256) 355-6911
1350 14th Ave. S.E.
Decatur, AL 35601



This is the current listing of our Shut-In Members along with their address and phone number. Please check on them by calling or dropping a card in the mail to let them know they are missed and being thought about.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Polly Baker	2867 Vaughn Bridge Rd., Hartselle, AL 35640	256-778-3027
Marion Bradford	2005 13th St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-4674
Betty Bunch	1307 Pennylane S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-350-3045
Patsy Cagle	1714 Westmeade St. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-3525
Troy & Faye Demastus	C/O NHC Healthcare, room 121, Moulton, AL 35650	256-221-0277
Harold Fagan	423 Briarwood Drive S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-466-3810
Beverly Fite	2110 Birch St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	
Mary Harris	1009 Line Street, Apt. 123, Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-2110 / Cell – 256-306-1103
Jane Hartselle	1121 9 th Ave. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-7832
Austin Inman	2306 Duncansby Dr. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-318-6154
Earl & Olga Morris	140 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35603	256-277-4749 (Earl) / 256-345-4740 (Olga)
Nancy Patterson	148 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35603	
Anne Slate	2311 Fairway Circle S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-6609
Shirley Smith	C/O Legacy Village of Jacksonville, Room 314, 1116 James Hopkin Rd. Jacksonville, AL 36265	256-345-2986
Wanda Smith	1420 Danville Rd. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-6693
Jamie Sparkman	3219 Lower River Road, Decatur, AL 35603	256-822-8105
Thelma Strock	1511 15th Ave. S.E., Decatur, AL 35603	256-340-1354
Ron Templeton	2505 Spring Ave. S.W., Apt. I 19, Decatur, AL 35601	
Doug Weatherspoon	2718 King Arthur Court S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-580-0217
Reba Webb	601 Ferry Street N.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-355-6635

Current Events

MEN'S MEETING

The elders will meet with the men of the congregation **tomorrow at 8:00 AM in the Annex (biscuit breakfast will be provided)**. If you have any questions, contact one of the elders.

BROOKDALE CEDAR SPRINGS DEVO

Sunday, March 16 at 1:30 PM

LADIES TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The next Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class will be on March 18 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

GAME NIGHT

Our next game night is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 5:30 PM in the Annex.

LADIES TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be March 25. If you have any questions, contact Suzanne Garrett.

MEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be March 25. If you have any questions, contact Keith Jett.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat is March 28 - 29. The cost is \$35 per person. Please sign the list on the bulletin board if you plan on attending. If you have any questions, contact Alan Watkins.

WALK4WATER

"It's time to Walk4Water! We will host our sixth annual Walk4Water event on Saturday, April 5th. Please join us at Veterans Park at 520 HWY 67 in Priceville, AL, with registration starting at 8:30 AM and the walk beginning at 9 AM. Walk4Water is a ministry of Healing Hands International that empowers local communities to impact global communities by providing clean water. Please register by visiting walk4water.hhi.org/decatour-al-2025. Contact Robert Guinn for more details."

JEWELRY FROM MALAWI FINAL REDUCTION SALE

Final reductions! Everything is now priced at \$5.00 each! Here's your chance to plan ahead and buy Birthday gifts, Mother's Day gifts, etc. We'd like to make one more payment to our sisters in Malawi. Thanks!

PHONE TREE MESSAGING SYSTEM UPDATE

We are in the process of updating the phone tree messaging system. If you do not have access to any kind of social media (Facebook, email) and would like to receive phone calls about events affecting the Decatur church (sympathy, funeral arrangements, major events), please put your name and phone number on the list hanging on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please call the office.

PHONE & EMAIL UPDATE

Please update the following information on Malcolm & Lorene Jones:

New ph. # - 256-580-5027

Cell # - 256-221-9925

Email :

Dallasjones257@outlook.com

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Ketchup or Mustard



Upcoming Events:

Decatur Church of Christ (03/03),

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your prayers, condolences and the beautiful flowers you sent in memory of Rachel Lee. Your kindness and support during this difficult time mean more to us than words can express. Thank you so much!

The Rachel Lee Family

Decatur Church Family (03/03),

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your prayers and overwhelming support during my recent surgery. Thank you for the calls, texts and numerous cards I received. It gave me tremendous comfort during this time of recovery. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. May God continue to bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Teresa Massey

Decatur Church Family, (03/03),

Thank you to the ladies who made the Valentine gifts and to Marilyn Whitson who brought them to us. We really enjoyed the candy and gifts. With Love,

Thelma & Dana Strock

20th Annual Area Wide Singing

Plainview Church of Christ
14500 Highway 231-431
Hazel Green, AL 35750
Friday, March 14
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Gospel Meeting

Fairfield Church of Christ
4553 County Road 87
Moulton, AL 35650

Dates:

March 30 - April 2
Sunday Morning Bible Class - 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 AM
Lunch will be provided
Sunday Evening Worship - 1:00 PM
Monday - Wednesday - 7:00 PM

Speaker:

Vance Hutton

Spring Meeting

Mt. Carmel Church of Christ
7805 US Hwy 72 West
Athens, AL 35611

Dates:

March 23 - March 26
10:00 AM Bible Study
10:50 AM Worship
Fellowship meal following am Worship
1:30 PM Worship
Monday - Wednesday—7:00 PM

Speaker:

James Farris

Girls Day

Union Church of Christ
4626AL-36
Somerville, AL 35670

Date:

May 31, 2025

Time:

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(Lunch to follow)

Speakers:

Bree Neighbors & Anna Maxwell

Theme:

"For Such a Time as This"
Ester 4:14

RSVP:

uniongirlsday@gmail.com or
(256) 345-8441

Ladies of all ages are welcome! We will begin at 9:30 and end at 12, followed by lunch. We'd love to see you there!
Maggie Suttles,
Union CoC



MARCH 2025

1st – Doyle Whitlow

4th – Philip Miller

Mack Stillwell

6th – Mary Harris

9th - Betty Bunch

10th - Roger Kalonick

12th – Felicia Moody

13th – Jan Kalonick

14th – Jeff Ellis

15th – Virginia Woodall

16th - Carol Etheredge

17th – Linda Dillard

21st - Steve Gober

23rd - Reid Wells

25th - Robbie Loyd

28th - Everett Kirby

31st - Patsy Cagle

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!



MARCH 2025

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 Fellowship Hall Reserved by Tab Wilson
2 Brookdale Cedar Springs Devo 1:30 PM <hr/> Fellowship Group 3 Lunch after AM Service in the Fellowship Hall	3	4 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM	5 Fellowship Meal 5:00 PM In the Annex <hr/> Singing Night 6:30 PM	6	7	8
9 Brookdale Cedar Springs Devo 1:30 PM <hr/> Youth Group: We will go eat lunch after the AM service and then do an activity. We will then go to the Area Wide Devo @ Union	10	11 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM <hr/> Ladies Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall <hr/> Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Room 12	12	13	14	15 Men's Meeting: 8 AM - Breakfast 8:30 AM - Meeting In the Annex
16 Brookdale Cedar Springs Devo 1:30 PM	17	18 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM	19	20	21 Annex reserved by Kelley Wells 4 - 8 PM	22 Game Nigh 5:30 PM in the Annex
23 Brookdale Cedar Springs Devo 1:30 PM <hr/> Fellowship Group 4 Lunch after AM Service	24	25 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM <hr/> Ladies Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall <hr/> Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Room 12	26	27	28 Men's Retreat	29 Men's Retreat
30	31					